

FEDERATION SAMACHAR



VOLUME 20 NO. 5

RABI-UL AAKHAR DEC. 1984

MOMBASA SEMINAR CHARTS AMBITIOUS STRATEGIES

In conformity with the recommendation from the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Supreme Council Secretariat, the Education and Debate Section of the Ithna-Asheri Young Men's Union, Mombasa, organized a two-day seminar at the Kanamai Conference and Holiday Centre, Kikambala, Mombasa in September as part of the celebrations of the 1400th Birth Anniversary of Imam Husein A.S.

The Seminar, Chaired by Mr. Hassan A.M. Jaffer, was attended by eighty nine participants which included three each from Dar es Salaam and Arusha, five from Tanga and one from London.

In order to initiate discussion on all aspects of our Community, the Seminar had as its OBJECTIVE, the following:



The First Speaker, Mohamed Takim presenting his paper. Second from right is Alhaj Haasan A. M. Jaffer, Chairman of The Seminar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor;
Federation Samachar,
The Federation of K.S.I. Jamats of Africa,
P.O. Box 233,
DAR ES SALAAM

Dear Sir,

Assalamu Alaykum. In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most merciful, I write these few lines to bring to the kind attention of you the translation given on page 15 of Volume 20 No. 2, of Surah CVII under the heading of "A LESSON FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN. (Fed Samachar January 1984 Issue)

In my opinion this is not in accordance with the English translation and commentary made by S.V. Mir Ahmedali, to which you may refer and arrange correction accordingly. For your ready reference this is quoted below.

AL - MAUN (ALMS) revealed at Mecca 7 verses in 1 section — He who cares not for prayer and, WITHHOLDS ALMS.

1. IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

Have you seen him who belies the final Judgement.

That is he who repels the orphan.

And urges not others to feed the poor.

And woe to those praying ones.

Who are heedless of their prayer.

Who do (a good deed only) to be seen.

And (Also) withhold Alms.

To hear this sura translated requires heart of steel.

With Salaams to DUA.

Sincerely yours.

HASSANALI M. NAZERALI.

P.O. Box 82287,

MOMBASA

APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

To make the Federation Samachar more informative we call upon Jamaats throughout the world to submit reports to us of any eventful happenings that may have occurred in their respective territories. We look forward to a renewed cooperation from all Jamaats in this matter.

Editorial Board.

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Sundeison Sports Co Ltd, P.O. Box 1340, Telephone NO. 2518, MWANZA.

" To motivate an understanding of the Religious, Economic, Social and Education needs of our Community and formulate possible ways and means of meeting these objectives."

The papers presented by the speakers were in line with this objective. The first speaker, Mr Mohamed A. Nathani of Dar es Salaam, presented a paper entitled.

" How and in what way should the structure of our Society be reformed to ensure continuous progress in the ECONOMIC and RELIGIOUS fields and what particular forms of progress should be envisaged and how could such forms of progress be achieved."

The second speaker, Mr. Asaf M. Gulamhussein of Mombasa, had the following as the subject of his paper.

" In what manner should our Society march forward in the SOCIAL and EDUCATIONAL sectors and what particular forms of progress should be achieved first in order to make our Society an exemplary one."

The papers presented by the two speakers were successful in initiating lively discussions as a result of which, emanating from group discussions, a total of about 30 resolutions covering various aspects of Community were tabled and adopted.

Participants were divided into four groups — one each to look into the Religious, Economic, Social and Education aspects — and named after Abu-Dhare Ghaffari, Ibne Haneef, Malike Ashtar and Ibne Abbas.

Resolutions brought by the Abu-Dhare Ghaffari Group ranged from parental awareness with regard to imparting of religious education to their children, linguistic and other problems attached to the institution of majlis, acceptance by every member of the Community that it is his duty to propogate our religion and to higher education in Islam for both boys and girls.

Ibne Haneef group proposed resolutions covering the need for communal business ventures, establishment of monetary reserve for the economic upliftment of Community members and setting up of group insurance schemes.

Dealing with the Social aspect, Malike Ashtar Group supported a proposal by the second speaker that a Think tank be set up to look into our needs and excesses. Resolutions tabled by this group embraced educating the mass to follow set standards of discipline, leadership criteria, abolition of class consciousness, solving matrimonial problems and conduction of workshops for both ladies and gents.

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CHAIRMAN ATTENDS MADAGASCAR MEETING

The Constitutional meeting of the Madagascar Territorial Council was held on 9, 10 and 11 August, 1984 under the Chairmanship of Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani, who arrived in Tananarive a day earlier. The meeting was particularly called to discuss various amendments in the Constitution of the territorial Council. It also deliberated on the Tabligh Reports submitted by various Jamaats and the Bilal Muslim Mission Report. Other subjects discussed in the meeting were the new rates of Hadiya for Molvis and the management of 'IBRAHIMBAI MANZIL' MUSAFARKHANA.

A significant change in the Constitution was that of the Cabinet of the Council. The cabinet will now consist of the President, Vice President, HON. Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and two members.

The Chairman of the Federation, Mohamed Dhirani, in his inaugural address, thanked Allah for giving him yet another opportunity to visit Madagascar. He said that his presence at the meeting would provide him with first hand information on the progress and problems of the Territorial Council and would also bring him close to the representatives of the various Jamaats which in turn would simplify his task when dealing with Madagascar matters in the Supreme Council.

Dhirani said that a cyclone that hit Majunga in April this year profoundly shook the whole community. "It was a challenge to our bond of brotherhood and the fact that Moamineens of Madagascar immediately came forward to make a generous contribution towards the relief fund was a clear indication of our strong unity and brotherhood."

Dhirani said that it was gratifying to note that after his appeal in last year's Territorial Council meeting, a plot has now been obtained for the construction of a mosque imambara madressa musafarkana and a molvi's flat in Tananarive. He said he was given to believe

Wide ranging proposals were tabled by the Ibne Abbas Group. These included establishment of career guidance bodies, support for higher education for girls, initiation of our school leavers into opting for technical disciplines, establishment of libraries and encouragement, by way of making the "environment" conducive for school leavers, to opt for higher education instead of seeking immediate employment.

As a follow up to this Seminar, the Ithna-Asheri Young Men's Union is planning a joint Seminar for both ladies and gents to discuss ways and means of solving matrimonial problems.

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Morondava Jamaat in Madagascar provided Water facilities at a nearby Village to Commemorate the 1400th Birthday of Imam Hussein (A.S.). SEen in the picture are from left to right:-

Abdul Moameen, Administrator of the Islamic Mission de Madagascar, Mohamedraza Khamis, President of Morondava Jamaat and Mohamed Dhirani, Chairman of the Federation.

that planning for the project is already underway and that a donor had come forward to subsidise the cost of the entire project. He wished and prayed for the success of the project.

He also emphasised on the religious education for our children and to adults and said this should be given top priority. Dhirani then praised the Bilal Muslim Mission for the commendable job they are doing in Madascar.

The Chairman went on to say that youths of the community should be mobilised to inculcate in them a sense of communal and religious responsibility and devotion.

Dhirani also requested Jamaats to devise a system, preferably a Marriage Burough, whereby match-making for some of our boys and girls can be exercised.

In reply, the President of the Territorial Council, Haji Akberali Alibhai Sunderji thanked the Chairman of the Federation for his timely and wise address and said that Mr. Dhirani's presence at the meeting was a source of inspiration to the Council. Akberbhai also expressed his gratitude to the Madagascar Jamaats for their whole hearted support during his current term.

The meeting continued for three days with candid and lively discussions throughout.

MORONDAVA VISIT

Immediately after the Territorial Council Meeting, the Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Dhirani

Continued on page 4

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Members of the then Husseiniya Society who served as volunteers at the first ever Conference of the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Jamaats of East Africa, which was held in Dar es Salaam in 1946. A prominent feature in the picture is the present Federation Chairman Mohamed Dhirani, who sure would not have envisage then that in the years to come he would lead the expanded Federation of Africa Jamats.

From left to right are:-

Standing: Mohamed Dhirani, Present Chairman of the Federation, Yusuf Nazerali Panju, Shaukat Panjwani, Hussein Nazerali Panju, Gulamabbas Suleman Mohamed and Akber Panjwani.

Sitting: Late Gulammehai K. Haji, Late Mohamed H. RAhim and Pyarali Rustamali Ladha.

Sitting On The Floor: Late Mustafa H. M. Walji and Kassim Panju, Nominated Councillor from Mombasa.

flew to Morondava where he was given a warm welcome.

During his short stay there, Dhirani met the Managing Committee, visited the Bilal Muslim Mission, Primary School and Madressa. He also met as many Moamineen as possible by visiting their shops and business premises.

At a reception held in the Chairman's honour, the President of Morondava Jamaat, Mohamedraza M. Khamis expressed gratitude on behalf of members of his Jamaat to the Chairman for visiting them. In a citation presented to Mr. Dhirani by the Morondava Jamaat, it was stated that the Chairman's visits to various Jamaats was a clear indication of his deep commitment to the well being of the community. "Your guidance on the education system in our School and your keen interest in the religious education of our children show how much concerned you are to uplift the standard of our future generation." the message added.

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MORONDAVA

GETS

NEW MANAGEMENT

At a General Meeting of the Morondava Jamaat held in August this year, the following were elected into office:-

President:	Mohamedraza M. Khamis
Vice President:	Yawerali M. Jaffer
Hon. Secretary:	Husseinali Karim
Joint Secretary:	Yunus Hassanali
Hon. Treasurer:	Roshanali Walibhai
Asst. Treasurer:	Razzali H. Alibhai
Members:	Abdulmunin Hasham
	Razahussein Hasham

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT



Mr. Asaf Gulamhussein

The following thought-provoking lecture was presented by Mr. ASAF M. GULAMHUSSEIN at a recent seminar organised in Mombasa by the Ithna-Asheri Young Men's Union of which Mr. Gulamhussein is also the chairman.

I have accepted to be a replacement speaker at the last moment as a challenge. However, in the process of trying to do justice to the vast subject entrusted to me, you may well find me fumbling. I should therefore like to appeal to you not to twist my tail should you find me floundering.

The subject of my paper reads —

"In what manner should our Society march forward in the SOCIAL and EDUCATION sectors and what particular forms of progress should be achieved first in order to make our Society an exemplary one."

However, before I put forward my ideas related to the forms of progress and the method of implementation, we must examine our shortcomings in the two fields under discussion, the circumstances attached to our practices and the pitfalls we, as a Society, have to overcome.

With your permission Mr Chairman, I would like to deal with Education first — for the simple reason that today it is perhaps the single most important issue facing our Society — a burning issue if I may say.

Let us first define Education. To my mind education means being sensitive to ones environment. The word sensitive as used here should be construed in the broadest possible spectrum and not be related to emotional sensitivity.

Being literate is one aspect of education; development of character and mental prowess and the ability to pragmatize ones attitude in relation to ones circumstances and environment, are other forms.

I would like to take literacy first because that is the commonly construed meaning of education.

From January next year, we in Kenya shall witness a transformation — that which will radically change the system of education. The

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new system, commonly known as the 8-4-4 system, has been devised with the manpower needs of the Country in mind. It will move the present academic-oriented system away and replace it with a practical mode of education.

Let us now examine the new system.

The existing system provided for a four-tier educational process. That is

EIGHT years of primary education

FOUR years of secondary education

TWO years of Higher secondary and

THREE to FIVE years at the University.

Under the new system, we shall have eight years of primary, four years of secondary and four to six years of University education.

Additionally, new subjects will be introduced at the primary school level. These are physical education, Art, Crafts, Music, Agriculture, Needlework, Home-Science and Religious Education. Since the cut-over date for the new system in secondary education is 1987, we do not as yet have more information.

With the inclusion of additional subjects, and in keeping with the new policies, a child, at the end of 8 years of primary education, will be assessed on the basis of his aptitude in all the subjects and then a decision made whether he is fit to pursue academic education or whether he should learn a craft.

Before I proceed any further, let me hasten to add one thing. I have upto now referred to a child as "he". It is my request that the "he" should be construed to include "she" also, otherwise I might find myself branded as a male chauvinist — and reported to the Board of Equal Opportunities !!!

I would now like to analyse the effects of these changes.

We must recognize the fact that not all of our children will be able to pursue academic education. At the end of the first eight years of education, a sizeable number of our children will have to take up technical education, obtain government trade test certificates and come out as mechanics, turners, fitters, carpenters, etc.

Those who are able to get admissions in academic secondary schools will have the opportunity to study upto the pre-university examination and they will have to work very hard indeed in order to qualify for entrance into the Universities in Kenya.

With Kenya's population growing at the rate of 4% and 50% of the population being of school going age, we have to bear in mind the shortage of schools in the country and envisage the magnitude of pressure on the country's educational facilities.

continued overleaf

Gentlemen, we have to arise and do all we can to solve the educational problems and ease the pressure on the existing educational facilities in the country.

CHANGE FROM WHITE COLLAR JOBS

We must accept the fact that we will have our children becoming artisans. And this fact has to be accepted by us. We are traditionally, believers in white collar professions. This attitude can perhaps be attributed to the fact that we Khojas are basically merchant class people. It is another matter that we, at least in Kenya, can no longer be called merchants — we are in reality employee-class. We are just not willing to shed off our dogmas.

One positive ramification of the new system will be that a child's own aptitude will decide his profession. Many a times has it been seen that parents have unilaterally pushed their off-springs into the wrong fields with the result that they turn out to be professional misfits. There is one major pitfall here. If our attitudes are anything to go by, these youngsters will be social outcasts. Under no circumstances should we allow this to happen as otherwise we shall be faced with social degeneration.

To remedy that, we need an economic plan which will habilitate them. They will have to be given an opportunity to become socially and financially acceptable not only in our Society but outside also.

Having identified the problems, we must now turn our attention to possible remedies

Gentlemen, our investment in the field of education in our respective countries is not upto the required level. As far as I know — though I may be wrong — Mombasa is far ahead of all other Jamats and here too there is a lot of room for improvement and expansion. Not only from the limited view of our Society, we, as loyal nationals of our respective countries, have a contribution to make. It is a responsibility which we can not shed, more so in the light of what I have said.

We have to establish educational facilities which will meet at least the basic necessities of our children. These facilities, established within the framework of the government policies, would not only impart academic education but also religious which is necessary in the light of changes envisaged.

Obviously this will mean digging into our coffers. Recognising the fact that we spend millions every year on feasts, I am confident that funds will be found necessary to meet the cost of establishing educational institutions. And if it means that we spend much less on these feasts, so be it!

Additionally, we need to amass a fund for those students who are unable to get into local Universities. These youths are the future leaders of our

Community and we must offer them all possible opportunities. It will mean a longer span of time at educational establishments where possible. We should provide for that too. It would be a shame if a student is deprived of education for lack of finances.

FLEXIBILITY IN ATTITUDE

In the meantime however we must examine our attitudes also. Gentlemen, we have to shed off our dogmas related to blue collar professions. The future of white collar professions is bleak. Everywhere we turn, we see the great strides made by technology and yet we remain oblivious. I attribute this to our fear for any diversion from the existing norms. I rather fear that we lack confidence in ourselves.

We must change our attitudes — we must educate ourselves otherwise we might well find ourselves left so far behind we may not be able to catch up. We have to venture into arenas unknown to us. Only then will we be able to survive in the race. Survival of the fittest is the name of the game and we have to fight to find a place for ourselves.

Perhaps I may at this stage quote a famous verse from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

There is a tide in the affairs of all men, Which taken at the flood leads to fortune, Omitted, and our lives are bound in miseries and misfortunes On such a full sea are we now afloat And we should take the current while it serves Or, abandon our ventures.

Opportunities still exist and we should grab them while there is time.

TANZANIA — WHAT WHEN THE OIL WELL DRIES?

While on attitudes, let me quote a factual example — one to which I have given the heading "The Tanzania Syndrome". At the time when problems related to education befell our brothers in Tanzania; a panic set in and a big hue and cry erupted. All possible avenues were investigated in order to provide education for our youths. And then came the boom. Our brothers found avenues of minting money and in the process, education was forgotten. Perhaps the presently money making generation will not suffer but what will happen to our children there? Our brothers in Tanzania have regrettably followed the footsteps of the Arabs — their situation when the oil wells dry up is going to be pathetic. I pray this mistake will jolt us into facing up to realities.

We need to approach our problems in a systematic manner. A blue print of our long term requirements needs to be drawn up and a concerted effort made to implement it.

provisions. I would like to add here that our educated and intellectual section will have to come out of the cocoon they have woven around them and participate actively. It is a moral obligation they have to fulfil.

Allow me to now turn attention to the development of character and mental prowess and the ability to pragmatize our attitudes which, I have stated earlier, are as much a part of education as literacy.

Islam is in itself a complete code of life. Therefore we do not have to look elsewhere for guidance on character building. Our madressas and majlises are our chief sources of education in this regard. And while the madressas seem to be doing their job remarkably well, shortcomings are evident in our majlises. These two departments can contribute immensely to our character building, provided they function in the correct manner. I shall not dwell any further on the religious aspect as the first speaker has already done so. Suffice it to say that if we adhere to the tenets of sharia, we will develop our character.

And what about mental prowess? The only answer I can offer is in the form of a famous saying attributed to Goethe

"Genius is 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration

Gentlemen, when literacy, character and mental prowess combine, the individual will be able to rationalize when effected by his environment.

To summarize therefore, Mr Chairman, I am of the opinion that we shall have to divest ourselves of all our taboos and apply a more practical mode of thinking when looking at education. Only by revolutionizing our attitudes will we as Society be able to survive.

We have to achieve optimum literacy level. Besides academic education, we need to have exchange of ideas, be they in the form of group discussions or debates, inculcate into our youths the habit of reading — and here I do not mean reading of comics and James Hadley Chase novels! —, learn different languages, etc. which will all contribute towards making us literate. Perhaps I should mention here that one of our brothers, during my discussions with him, offered a portion of his building for the purpose of putting up a library. Commendable, indeed. Emerson once said "Knowledge is the only elegance" Gentlemen, whatever the cost, we will have to acquire this elegance.

A SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR!

REPORT ON THE SEMINAR HELD AT THE MOSHI JAMAAT'S MADRESSA HALL TO COMMEMORATE THE 1400TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF IMAM HUSSEIN (A.S.)

The seminar which was organised by the Moshi and Arusha Jamaat started at 9.00 a.m in the morning. The chairman of Moshi Jamaat's Tabligh Sub Committee Mr. Roshanali Mamdani welcomed the Participants. Amongst the distinguished guests were the Hon. Secretary of K.S.I. Supreme Council Alhaj Mohamed Rafik Somji, Resident Aalim of Moshi Jamaat, Syed Murid Hussein Kazmi, Resident Aalim of Nairobi Jamaat, Sheikh Durul Hassan, Mulla Gulamhussein A. Peera and Sheikh Abdulrahman from Arusha. The chairman of Moshi Jamaat Mr. Ahmed Daya then opened the seminar and introduced the chairman of the seminar Alhaj Monzooral Kanani (Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat) and handed over the seminar proceedings to him.

The first speaker of the seminar was supposed to be Mr. Ahmed A. Jaffer of Mombasa but due to unavoidable circumstances he could not make it. Instead Mr. Masoomali Meghji of Mombasa read his speech. The subject was "Our ways of life, are they compatible with the sacrifices offered by Imam Hussein (AS)?" The second speaker was Mr. Raza Dattoo of Nairobi who talked on "Why, oh! why, can't we spread the message of Imam Hussein (AS)". Both the speakers gave justice to their subjects and ably answered questions poised to them by participants.

After a break for prayers and lunch, the participants had group discussions and the leader of each group then presented his report. The vice Chairman of Arusha Jamaat, Mr. Bashir Lalji thanked the chairman, speakers and participants on behalf of Moshi/Arusha Jamaats before the seminar chairman winded up proceedings at 4.30 p.m.

Invitations to attend the seminar were sent to the Chairman and office bearers of KSI Supreme Council, Chairman of all Jamaats in East Africa, Chairman of World Federation, prominent elders of our community including Mulla Asgherali M. M. Jaffer and Alhaj Abdulrasul Lakha.

Literacy, excellence of character, acquired by adherence to the tenets of our religion, and hard work will make us "educated," which is very much necessary for transforming us into an exemplary society. But, and I must stress this, the standards will have to be very high and not mediocre as at present.

Let me at this stage add one piece of advice to our professionals and would-be-professionals. Besides attaching yourselves to a particular discipline, you must broaden your horizon by acquiring other "minor" skills such as learning different languages. This will not only help economically but also be an added advantage when seeking acceptance in other Societies.

(Discussion on the Social aspect will be carried in the next issue of the Federation Samachar)

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Zakirs & Zakiras for Muharram 1405

The Council obtained three Zakirs from overseas who were posted to Dar es Salaam, Mombasa and Nairobi. They came from Yemen, Pakistan and Abu Dhabbi respectively. Two more Aalims were seconded on tablighi tours from the Howza in Iran and they were posted to Mogadisho in Somalia and Port Louis in Mauritius.

Eight Zakirs — two from Mombasa, four from D'Salaam and two from Zanzibar were posted to Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Lindi, Tunduru, the two Jamaats of Zanzibar and Kinshasa.

As for Zakiras, ten were recruited which is the highest ever obtained by the Council. One came from Dubai, three from India and six from Karachi. It was therefore possible to post the

Zakiras to the major Jamaats of D'Salaam, Mombasa, Nairobi, Bujumbura, Tanga, Moshi, Arusha, Mwanza, Songea and Tananarive.

Three Zakiras from East Africa — one from Mombasa and two from Dar es Salaam — were posted to Madagascar and another four zakira were posted to Lindi, Tunduru, Kigoma and Zanzibar.

The Council thanks all those who cooperated in enabling the recruitment of these Zakirs and Zakiras. Special thanks go to Nairobi, Arusha and D'salaam Jamaats for receiving them and sending them to their respective stations. We pray to Allah that our efforts and Azadari for Imame Hussein A.S. is accepted. Ameen.

The final postings of Zakirs and Zakiras were as follows:-

ZAKIRS AND ZAKIRAS FOR MUHARRAM 1405

Posted to	Zakirs/Zakiras	Originally from
ARUSHA	Syed Sibte Mohamed Sartaj Begum	D'SALAAM Karachi
BUJUMBURA (Burundi)	Sheikh Durul Hassan Begum Rafik Fatima	Nairobi Karachi
BUKOBA	Sheikh Gulamrasul Najafi Begum Gulamrasul Najafi	Bukoba Bukoba
D'SALAAM	Maulana Mahmood Yusuf Abdulla Begum Tahera Rizvi	Middle East India
DODOMA	Mulla Gulamabbas K. Sheriff	Mombasa
KIGOMA	Syed Skhi Ahmed Mulyani Khatijabai Jaffer	Bujumbur D'salaam
KINSHASA (Zaire) KISANGAN (Zaire)	Mula Muhsin A.M. Jaffer Mulla Mustafa Moledina	D'Salaam Bujumbura
LINDI	Mulla Muslim M. E. Jivraj Mulyani Mrs Gulamhusein A. Peera	D'Salaam
MIKINDANI	Sheikh Gulamabbas M.K.S. Versi	Arusha Mikindani
MOMBASA (Kenya)	Prof. Nadir Hussein Begum Anis Fatima Zaidi	Karachi India
MOGADISCIO (Somalia) MOROGORO MOSHI	Syed Anver Adil Mulla Kassam M.J. sheriff Syed Sabir Husein Nazir Husein	Iran Mombasa
MWANZA	Begum Kaniz Fatima Syed Murid Hussein Begum Asad	Arusha Karachi Moshi Karachi
MERCA (Somalia)	Maulana Abbas F. Panjatani	Merca

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Posted to	Zakirs/Zakiras	Originally from
NAIROBI (Kenya)	Syed Asif Akhtar Rizvi Begum Fatima Nayyar	Abu Dhabi Karachi
NAKURU (Kenya) NAMPULA (Mozambique)	Sehik Mirza Mohamed Mehdi Mulla Abdulrasul H. Khaki	Mogadiscio Mombasa
PORT LOUES (Mauritius) SINGIDA SONGEA	Sheikh Masroor Hassan Mulla Gulamhusein A. Peera Syed Sajaad Hussein Haamida Begum	Iran Arusha D'Salaam Karachi
TANGA FUNDURU	Sheikh Zaheed Khan Mulyani Zehrabai A. Nathani Mulla Fidahusein Murji Mulyani Rukiyabai S. Ladha	Mwanza Dubai D'Salaam D'Salaam
MADAGASCAR:	Mulla Amirali R. Alidina Syed Tufaili Abbas Naqvi Syed Imran Haider Zaidi Maulana Jafferli Wakil Syed wasi Haider Syed Tayyeb Raza Syed Liagat Raza Mulla Roshan Versi Sheikh Safdali Hussein K. Jalali Malyani Shirinbai M. Lakdak Mulyani Leilabai Dewji Mulyani Khatijabai Datoo Mulyani Fatmabai RASHID	Zanzibar India India India India India India Madagascar Tanga India D'Salaam D'Salaam Mombasa

RECRUITMENT PROBLEM

The Secretariat has expressed its gratification to Alhaj Mohamed Pardhan of Bilal Trust of Pakistan for his untiring efforts in obtaining Zakirs and Zakiras from Pakistan and has also thanked Haji Gulamali Bhanji and Alhaj Roshanali Dawood H. Nasser for similar assistance in India.

We have been told that every year the Secretariat starts making arrangements for securing Zakirs of high calibre well before Mahe

Ramazan but from past experience it now appears that the zakirs are normally unprepared to give firm commitments until sometime in Zilkaad with the hope of getting more lucrative offers. Before then, in some cases, the Zakirs decide to withdraw their offer at the eleventh hour, inspite of earlier committments. This problem has been faced for some years now and we would therefore like to remove any misconception amongst members that the Secretariat was remaining lax until the last moment, thereby losing good Zakirs to other countries.

CLEAN WATER FOR MIDA (KENYA) FROM THE 'GOLDEN CRESCENT'

To commemorate the 1400th Birth Anniversary of Imam Hussein (A.S.) the 'Golden Crescent Group of Mombasa made a generous donation of Shs. 22,000/- for the provision of a well, complete with hand pump and reservoir to the village of Mida, situated to the north of Mombasa. 23 KMS before Malindi.

The village of Mida now enjoys a supply of clean and clear water. Before the construction of this well, people used to consume muddy water for domestic purposes as well as for "WAZU" in the Mosque. The reservoir tanks are so constructed that while the villagers may draw water at any time, the mosque will have a constant supply of water.

The official opening of the well was performed on 23 August this year by the resident Aalim of Mombasa Jamaat, Sayed Anver Adil and the taps were declared open by Mulla H. M. Nasser and Mulla Abdulrasul H. Khaki.

The ceremony was also graced by the presence of the Chairman of Mombasa Jamaat, Alhaj Akberali Peermohamed. In a short speech before the opening ceremony, the Director of the Mombasa District Mr. Abdulhusein A. Molu paid tribute to the members of the Jamaat for their generous support.

DAR PROJECT:

Meanwhile it is reported that the Dar es Salaam District of the Golden Crescent Group has also embarked on a project of providing a Water Cooler costing Shs. 50,000.00 to the Hussein Madressa, Dar es Salaam to commemorate the 14th Centenary of the Birth of Imam Hussein (A.S.).

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SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL TO COMMEMORATE THE

1400 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF IMAM HUSSEIN (A.S.)

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania is endeavouring to provide Islamic Education which will keep the flame of Ahlulbait's religion alive and spread it. Educated missionaries will win more hearts and increase followers.

You too can help in this endeavour and reap the untold rewards of bringing people to the right path by providing the means for imparting this religious education to many more students.

All you have to do is to pledge for one of the three types of scholarships established by the mission:

- (1) HUSSEINI SCHOLARSHIP :-Per Student
FOUR YEAR COURSE Shs. 9,000/
ARABIC — FIQUHA — AKHLAQ.
BOARDING — LODGING.
- (2) SUKAINA:- (For Girls)
THREE YEAR COURSE IN Shs. 4,000/
QURAN/DINIYAT
AKHLAQ/ALSO ENGLISH AND ARITH-
METIC

- (3) ASGHARI:-
NURSERY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN Shs.
2,500/-
READ AND WRITE, QURAN, DINIYAT
LIGHT HEALTH FOOD PROVIDED.

Presently we have following students in our School:-

Boarding School	31
Girls	50—60
Nursery class	70

and we are stepping up to increase the number of students, which of course will depend on your contributions.

The Mission will gratefully accept even part of a scholarship. No contribution is too little. Every shilling will add to the mission's financial resources to achieve this noble end.

It is said by Masoomeen that
"One unit spent for talib-e-Ilm is better than 10 units spent else where".

COUNCILLORS NOMINATED

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon him under Clause 23 of the Constitution, the Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani has appointed the following as Councillors.

Roshan Mamdani	Moshi
Shabbir Abbas Manji	Nachingwea
Fidahussein Abdulla Hameer	Dar es Salaam
Razaali M. RAfiq	— Mombasa
Abdulhussein Habib	— Bujumbura
Hussein Rajani	— Songea

NAIROBI TO ORGANISE TEACHERS SEMINAR

Nairobi Jamaat has decided to organise a Teachers' Training Seminar from 11 January to 13 January 1985. The seminar will be for both ladies and gents from East Africa and it is intended to cater for about 40 participants, who should be sponsored by their respective Jamaats.

The participants will have to make their own travel arrangements. However free boarding and lodging (for participants only) will be provided by the Nairobi Jamaat.

We congratulate Alhaj Manzoor Kanani and his Cabinet for organising this long awaited seminar and wish them all success.

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CONVALESCENCE HOME IN PETERBOROUGH

To commemorate 1400th Birthday Anniversary of Imam Hussein (A.S.), Peterborough Jamaat has successfully completed the "Husseini Convalescence Home". Under this project non residents going to U.K. for medical treatment through the Medical Advisory Board of the World Federation will be provided facilities.

The Home was officially declared open on 16 September, 1984. Among the guests present were the Mayor Of Peterborough and the M.P. Dr. Brian Muwahiney together with many other dignitaries.

Reshuffle in Nairobi Jamaat

Following the resignation of G. H. Musa and Gulamabbas Khaku, as Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary respectively, the Managing Committee has appointed Hussein Rashid as the Vice Chairman and Zaki Jagani as the Assistant Secretary of the Jamaat.

Since both Messrs Rashid and Jagani were already members of the Committee, they were replaced by Ramazan Nanji and Farmanali Datoo as Committee Members.

DREAM COME TRUE

Commencing with this issue, we shall, subject to availability, be carrying short biographies and autobiographies of students who have been assisted by the Supreme Council have enhanced their careers.

If anything changed my life it was a letter from the Council dated 23 April 1969. The letter mentioned that the Council had approved my scholarship loan application for further studies. I was working as a Bank clerk in Singida N.B.C. and I had nearly forgotten that I had applied for the loan when I left Zanzibar. My parents were still in Zanzibar as my father was a civil servant. He hurriedly sent me a letter telling me to go ahead and not to miss such a chance. I was restless till I boarded a B.I. ship at Dar es Salaam in mid May for Bombay.

In June 1969, with higher credits in science and Mathematics in my hand I got admission into a Pre-University course at Wadia College under Poona University. The going was difficult. Our Cambridge 'O' level mathematics was in fact mediocre in standard and I faced myself with tough competition. Nevertheless, with hardwork, zeal and encouragement I found myself getting a good class in the finals.

To get into Engineering Colleges in India especially for a foreign student was not an easy task. Most of the institutions require you to either sit for the entrance exam or be selected by the Indian Government. A number of my friends who were with me either ended with Bsc or dropped out. Hence I was overwhelmed when I received a telegram from the Central Government that I had been nominated into M.A. College of Technology, for a five years integrated course in Civil Engineering.

Having settled down in the new campus at Bhopal which was being run by the central Government in conjunction with Unesco, I thought my problems were over. No, they were not, they were just starting. Tanzania at that time was going through a critical economic phase and with it went off our monthly remittance. I was nearly stranded but with Allah's help I was able to finish my studies with First Class Honours in 1975.

I began my career as an Assistant Engineer and gradually was promoted to Site engineer and Resident engineer. In Dar es Salaam I had the opportunity to supervise the I.F.M. and Ex-telcoms buildings. In Arusha, the Arusha Technical College and in Moshi, I have supervised a number of projects including the CCM Regional Headquarters and the Co-operative College expansion. Apart from that I am also the Managing Director of Consulting Engineers Ltd and am a registered engineer with the Government of Tanzania Board of registration. I am also a Corporate Member of the Institution of



Engineers Tanzania. I am married with 3 kids and also active in social life being a committee member of a number of Mosque projects in Kilimanjaro region Jamaat, Lions club and Golden Crescent Group.

No doubt nothing is always straight forward. I would not say I did not have my share of problems. One thing is but sure, if the Council had not encouraged me at that time to pursue my childhood ambition, my dream would not have come true.

Kassamali A. Parpia.
B.E. (civil). MIET!

A BOOK ON..... MARRIAGE

A STEP TOWARDS FULFILMENT IN LIFE

A book, with the above Title, has been published by the World Federation of K.S.I. Muslim Communities.

It is a book which parents can give as a wedding present to their son or daughter. It is a book that can be read by the young as well as the older couples. It is a book that individuals can give as a most valuable present to their friends who may be facing marriage difficulties.

The List of Contents of this most informative book is as follows:

PREFACE
CHAPTER 1 THE CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE
CHAPTER 2 THE CODE OR MARRIED LIFE
CHAPTER 3 THE STATUS OF A WOMAN
(i) BEFORE ISLAM
(ii) THE ISLAMIC VIEW

- (a) A WOMAN
- (B) A DAUGHTER
- (c) A WIFE
- (d) A MOTHER

continued overleaf

NASIMCO ELECT OFFICE BEARERS

During the fourth Annual Meeting of the Organisation of North American Shia Ithnaasheri Muslim Committee (NASIMCO) held in New York in September, the following were elected into office for a two years term:

President. Mr. Habib Dhalla (re-elected for 2nd term).

Vice President Mr. Abbas S. Alloo

Secy/General To be appointed by President under Article No. 24 (c) of the constitution

Treasurer Mr. Hussein Bharwani

The President, Habib Dhalla subsequently appointed the following as Executive Councillors:

A Book on MARRIAGE...

CHAPTER 4 THE WEDDING

(i) PROPOSAL AND MAHR

(ii) THE NIKAH CEREMOY

(iii) THE WEDDING ROOM

CHAPTER 5 SEX IN MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 6 CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

CHAPTER 7 SOURCES OF STRESS IN MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 8 DIVORCE AND ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS

(a) ON THE PARTNERS

(b) ON THE CHILDREN

CHAPTER 9 MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

INDEX

The authors of the book are:

ALHAJ MULLA ASGHERALI M.M. JAFFER

&

DR. AMIR G.N. LAKHA

M.B, CH.B., D.P.M. (R.C.P. LONDON & R.C.S. ENG).

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Mr. Gulamabbas M.G. Dhala (President — S.I. Jamaat of Los Angeles)

Mr. Sultan H. Jaffer (President — S. Muslim Comm. of BC)

Mr. Hussein (President of S. I. Jamaat of Toronto)

The NASIMCO secretariat is now based in Toronto and Al-Haj Pyarali Rustum is responsible for its day to day administration.

SAD DEMISE OF AYATULLAH SHERAZI

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the sad demise of Ayatullah Syed Abdulla Shirazi of Mashhad (Iran) which took place on 2nd Muharram, 1405.

Ayatullah Syed Shirazi was one of the Maraje' Taqlid and had arrived in Mashhad about ten years back from Najaf (Iraq).

He was not only a great Marja' but a great Mujahid as well and his struggles against the tyrants and anti-Islamic rulers made him suffer a great deal at the hands of these rulers.

He died at the age of 95 years. The Council has sent a Telegram of condolence to his son, Hujjatul Islam Syed Mohamedali Shirazi.

All Momeneens are requested to recite Sura E. Fatiha for Ithla Thawab of Murhum.

May Allah in His Mercy grant him everlasting peace in the Hereafter and avail him a place in Heaven with Fourteen Masummen A.S. Amin.

MADAGASCAR AND KENYA TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS

During the visit of the Chairman Mr Mohamed Dhirani to Madagascar, a scheme on the exchange of students between Madagascar and Kenya as well as Tanzania was initiated. It was thought that such visits apart from creating and developing a bond of friendship would give an opportunity to students to know about another country, its people, culture and attractions. It would also provide an opportunity for Madagascar students to stay with Kenyan families, to attend Madressas and learn about the communal system of the host country.

It is hoped that this year 16 students will be picked from different Jamaats in Madagascar to form two groups of eight each. The first group will visit Mombasa while the second will go to Nairobi. Likewise students from Mombasa and Nairobi will visit Madagascar next year.

Meanwhile we have been informed that the Territorial Council of Madagascar has decided to organise a Sports Festival in December this year wherein youths from various Jamaats in Madagascar are expected to take part. The games to be contested will be Football and Bhou.

OBITUARIES

HAJI ABDALLAH FAZAL



Late Haji Abdallah Fazal

Murabbi Abdullabhai was born in Bharapur Cutch Northern India in 1904. He migrated to East Africa in 1919. He made Bukoba his home and spent all his life in this lake town of Tanzania.

A hardworking and industrious person, Abdullabhai in few years made an impact on the business community and established himself in various enterprises and was soon amongst the leading businessmen not only in Bukoba but in Tanzania. Not allowing himself to be limited to business activities only, he was involved in various civil activities for the benefit of the people of Bukoba Township.

In view of his services, in 1953 he was awarded the Coronation Medal by the British Government. Murabbi Abdullabhai was also a very keen community worker and was a committee member of Bukoba Jamaat and its Vice-Chairman before assuming Chairmanship in 1965 and retiring in 1976 from that post.

From the establishment of the Federation he had been a very keen supporter and served as Councillor for 25 years. In 1959 he accompanied Haji Ebrahim Hussein Sheriff, then Chairman of Federation, to various towns in Tanganyika to raise a Foundation Fund for the Federation.

Philanthropist and generous, Murabbi Abdullabhai's departure is not only a great loss to the community but also to Bukoba town which has been deprived of an illustrious character.

May Allah grant him peace in the hereafter and a place with Fourteen Masumin A.S. in Heaven. Amin.

The Council conveys its condolences to all members of Marhum's family.

All Mominin are requested to recite Sura-e-Fatiha for the Marhum.



MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI HAJI ALI CHANDOO

MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI HAJI ALI CHANDOO BORN IN ZANZIBAR IN 1898, DIED AT TANGA ON TUESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1984 AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS. HIS DEATH HAS LEFT A WIDE GAP IN THE COMMUNITY — BOTH, SOCIALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY.

MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI SERVED THE COMMUNITY IN ZANZIBAR SINCE HIS YOUTH. HE HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS IN THE JAMAT'S MANAGING COMMITTEE, AND WAS ALSO ITS MUKHI FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

IN 1970 MARHUM MOVED TO TANGA WHERE HE SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT OF TANGA JAMAT. HE WAS ALSO A LIFE TRUSTEE OF TANGA JAMAT.

MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI WAS A STUDENT OF MARHUM AGHA SEYYID HUSEIN SHUSHTARYMOF ZANZIBAR AND STAYED WITH MARHUM AGHA TILL THE LATTER'S DEATH. HE THEREBY GAINED GOOD KNOWLEDGE IN RELIGION AND FARSI.

IN ZANZIBAR, MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI USED TO TRANSLATE MASAEL, WAEZ AND MAJLIS PREACHED BY MARHUM AGHA SEYYID HUSEIN AND AGHA NASHEER IN FARSI INTO CUTCHI.

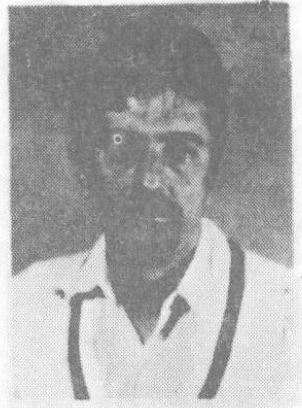
MARHUM HAJI GULAMALI WAS A PIOUS ALEEM AND CONDUCTED NAMAZE JAMAAT DURING MOLVI SAHEB'S ABSENCE AND PERFORMED ALL RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES SUCH AS NIKAH, NAMAZE MAYYAT, ETC. HE ALSO USED TO PRAY IN THE FRONT LINE DURING NAMAZ.

MAY ALLAH REST HIS SOUL IN JAWARE CHAHARDA MASUMMEN A.S. "AMEN"

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NATHOO LEADS TANZANIA TO VICTORY



Under the captainship of Mohammed Nathoo (38), Tanzania this year clinched the 19th East and Central African Quadrangular Cricket Championship after a lapse of 16 years.

The event was contested by Malawi, defending champions Zambia, Uganda and hosts Tanzania. In their preliminary encounter, Tanzania pulled a convincing six wickets win over Zambia and then went on to beat Uganda by four wickets before overwhelming Malawi by five wickets in the deciding encounter. Malawi took the runners-up position while Zambia finished third and Uganda settled for the wooden spoon.

Nathoo, a dynamic all-round player of Union Sports Club has been in the national line-up for the past 12 years; his first opportunity to captain the national team came in 1977 when he led Tanzanian squad to Zambia and on several occasions he has also been vice-captain of the national team.

Last year he was adjudged the best batsman of Dar es Salaam, an award of which he was the first recipient when it was introduced in 1974. Nathoo re-won the same award in 1982 and by winning it last year he has become the only batsman to have won the award thrice.

Commenting on Tanzania's success in the recent Quadrangular championship, Nathoo said that the essence behind the victory was the high team spirit which was prevalent amongst his players throughout the championship. He said that as captain he had continuously accentuated to his players, the importance of playing as an enthusiastic team with an aim of nothing short of victory. He also instigated his players to tackle each encounter with confidence rather than considering themselves as underdogs. He also stressed to the players to condone any club differences during the run of the championship and called for a strict adherence to discipline both on and off the ground.

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Looking back to the championship in perspective it was indeed the high team spirit, players' confidence, good discipline, elegance and of course good cricket that saw Tanzania emerging onto the top of the regional cricket scene. As a captain, it appears that Nathoo succeeded where some of his predecessors failed, by being very accessible to his teammates and by not over-weighting his personal performance at the cost of his fellow players. The match evaluations sessions that he organised amongst players after each encounter, also played good part in the team's victory.

The other players selected from the community also put on good performances. Hailing from Arusha's Kilimeru Club, the Sharrif brothers Munir and Gulamraza obtained excellent bowling and batting averages. Munir was declared the best bowler of the championship. In game one against Zambia he claimed 4 wickets and supplemented this with an 82 runs runs contribution. Against Malawi he hauled 2 wickets at the cost of 21 runs. Gulamraza who put in good batting performances consistently (42 against Zambia, 42 against Uganda and 52 against Malawi) was declared the best batsman of the event.

From Dar es Salaam, Shákir Sheraly and Sajjad Lakha also put in fine performances. Shakir had a particularly bright innings against Uganda when he scored 27 runs (including a six) when the national team was sailing through a dilly-dally situation. Sajjad bowled well to limit scores of the opposing batsmen and in his haul of 5 wickets, the 3/14 spell against Uganda was the highlight.

We congratulate all the cricketers for ably representing the nation and wish them success in forthcoming events.

Union Celebrates Cricket Victory

A colourful ceremony was organised in Dar es Salaam at the Boarding House to celebrate the victory for Union Sports Club in the country's Sunday League championship. Union have won the championship nine times in the previous eleven years. Union's second string also put on a commendable performance to win the Sunday League second division event.

The Guest of Honour at the ceremony was the Iranian Ambassador to Tanzania, Hujjatul Islam Agha Mohamed Ali Lavasani. Others on the main table were the Federation Vice Chairman, Habib Mulji (representing) the chairman, Mohammed Dhirani who was away in Madagascar, Raffik Somji (Master of Ceremonies), Gulam Janmohammed (President of Dar es Salaam Jamaat), Ahmed Issa (Interpreter for Agha Lavasani) Hussein Peera (Ithnaasheri Union Chairman), Mohammed

Nathoo (Acting Chairman of Union Sports Club) and Muslim Jivraj (Treasurer of Union Sports Club)

Various sportsmen were awarded for their fine performances during the season. They were:-

Union Sportsman of the year Sajjad Lakha
'A' DIVISION CRICKET

Best Batsman	Mohamed Nathoo
Best Bowler	Kassim Bhimji
Best Fielder	Mustafa Aloo
Best All-Rounder	Bashir Tejani

'B' DIVISION

Best Batsman	Ebrahim Jivraj
Best Bowler	Afzal Peera
Best Fielder	Hussein Datoo
Best All Rounder	Akhtar Nayani

'C' DIVISION

Best Batsman	Arif Hooda
Best Bowler	Jamil Kermali
Best Fielder	Ebrahim Datoo
Best Union Supporter	Mohamed Virani

VOLLEYBALL:

In an Internal Volleyball tournament that was organised as part of the celebrations, Murtaza Dinani was selected as the man of the tournament while the Best Upcoming Player award went to Ebrahim Datoo.

SQUASH WIN FOR DAYA

The top seed, Munir Daya beat third seed, Tehsin Noormohamed 9/2 9/2 9/3 to win a special squash tournament organised by Union Sports Club to coincide with the Championship celebration.

The plate event was won by Ashraf Shivji who triumphed 9/5 9/1 9/1 over Sajaad Lakha in the finals.

The Guest of Honour at the finals was the Iranian Ambassador to Tanzania Hujjatul Islam Agha Mohammed Ali Lavasani.

The tournament attracted 46 players, three of whom came from Moshi. The top Moshi player, Shabbir Rhemtullah who was seeded second was upset 1/3 by Tehsin Noormohamed in the semi-finals. A special trophy was awarded to Hussein Punja for the Best Upcoming player.

Food for thought

FAILURES ARE divided into two classes—those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

Nothing keeps a man's feet on the ground like having a little responsibility placed on his shoulders.

A good supervisor is someone who can understand those not very good at explaining, and explain it to those who are not very good at understanding.

The best way to get relief from a monotonous task is to think up ways of improving it.

BRINGING UP CHILDREN

By Munir Daya

This article written by Munir Daya was first published in the New Outlook magazine in which the writer has a regular column on Psychology.

We are today living in a noisy and busy age, in which many of us infected by the prevailing fever of having and getting have never bothered about the art of bringing up children in the right way, with the lame excuse that we are too busy. In today's world corruption, violence, nooliganism, crime, murders, immorality and unchastity have become an order of the day. And this increased trend of fearful events will continue pestering the peoples of the world at a still more alarming rate, if considering the escalation in world population, our children are not brought up in the right way. If only the parents of the modern child could bring him up in the required way by using basic psychological tactics, one could expect a better quality of people in the generations to come. Yes, if only!

The art of bringing up children in a disciplined manner does have its snags but with a little tact and understanding any such problems can easily be overcome.

HANDLING THE CHILD

First there is the problem of handling a difficult child. If you are a parent, you might have passed a phase where your child made you feel that he is being much more of a problem than most children and when you quite genuinely got concerned about his behaviour.

Perhaps your child refuses to eat what you have specially prepared for him and the more you insist the more adamant he becomes. And moreover he gluts his appetite with sweets and chocolates, which you correctly know is bad for him if taken in excess.

On the other hand, perhaps your child does nothing else but eat. He may be getting more than fat but he stuffs and gorges and never seems to be satisfied. His obesity may be driving you mad but what can you do?

Or perhaps your child may be continuously embarrassing you in front of your relatives by using foul language in front of them. You have kept on telling him that this was bad but in spite of your many warnings he remains unperturbed or perhaps your child comes to your bedroom early each morning asking you to bathe him since he has wet the bed yet again. You have warned him and tried all the prescribed aids like restricting his fluid intake in the later part of the day but it just does not seem to work. And new thinking of the washing that faces you, you feel anything but loving as he stands there in front of you, in his soiled clothes.

Then there is the child who sucks his thumb and on no request does he stop doing so. You know this is bad because it could lead to his teeth growing outwards. Yet what can you do when in spite of your repeated requests, the child still keeps on sucking his thumb.

Or your child may be one of those morose, disobedient and obstinate ones. You ask him to do this and he will do the contrary. If you warn him not to play in the garden where your clothes may be drying, the moment you are out and he will be on, of course the garden, playing. He challenges you and pays no heed to your warnings and this he sometimes does in front of guests, when it could be very embarrassing. He makes you feel that he is the boss of the house and then you get weblocked into a sense of frustration and finally give him a good walloping.

BEHIND THE SMOKE SCREEN

The above anecdotes reveal some of the different ways in which children could give problems to their parents but it should be remembered that however much the child appears to enjoy defying the parent, or however obstinate the child is in face of your anger, you can be almost certain that behind the smokescreen he is in despair for some reason or the other.

And although you may be unaware of it, your child may be experiencing a sense of hopelessness about life. He may be feeling somehow unloved and rejected and when consequently jealousy creeps into him, it makes the child still more difficult to control.

As for the child, he is too immature and inexperienced to know what to do and his unbearable behaviour is in reality a desperate plea for help. His disorderly behaviour is just to draw the attention of his parents so that he can be aided in a situation which he alone is unable to tackle. During this difficult period if one tries to make one's child obedient through beatings it will only widen the gap since the more one beats one's child the more unloved the child will feel and the more he will resent his parents. The correct attitude to such a situation would be to explain to the child that what he is doing is wrong and though this may, at times, not work at first instance it is bound to work after few polite explanations. And the best way to give an explanation is to talk to the child in privacy so that he feels he is being given sole attention for something important and that since you love him you do want him to develop. By beating him or shouting at him when he is in the act of doing something bad will never stop him!

May I now cite a practical example in connection to the above. A father who learnt of his son having formed a habit of smoking threatened him that he would burn his fingers with a cigarette tip if he ever did so again. Now a child's mind is immature and normally takes advice in the manner they are delivered rather than the reasoning behind the advice. This boy, angry at being threatened kept on smoking behind his father's back, just to satisfy his inner conscience that he had won against his father by not heeding to his advice. And today he remains to be a smoker.

BEATING CHILDREN

Now there was this other boy whose bad companionship led him into smoking. His father came to learn of it and how he handled it has made his son a non-smoker till today. He advised his son. "I see that you have started to smoke. I am not going to shout at you because it's due to the influence of your friends. But dear son, smoking just like taking of hard drinks, is bad for health and an unnecessary drain on your pockets and that is why I wish you would stop it immediately ... for your benefit."

I don't contradict the absolute beating of children. In life it always becomes necessary to beat children but it is not right to do this regularly. Regular beating only makes a child timid and meek due to a prevalent fear in his mind about you. You may beat him but in limit and when necessary but when a child is disobedient it's always more effective to handle him with explanations. Beatings only come in when the child just does not seem to understand.

From birth, a baby needs assurance of your welcome and love for him. A baby's instincts are highly sensitive and the way he is handled by his parents tells him how warmly or not he is accepted into a relationship of cherishing love.

A baby who feels desolated and unloved is thrown into a terror of non-survival and with these insecure foundations, the child may be seen to be constantly depressed and he may also be forced into abnormal patterns of behaviour.

And when such a child grows up and enters into school life, or other children come into the family, he comes into contact with more secured children and thus gets more depressed when thinking of the enthusiastic way in which the other children are living. This forces him into abnormal patterns of behaviour just so as to get the attention, which other children are albeit getting through good behaviour.

It is easy for a child to feel rejected. For instance I know of many a parent who tell their children that they have to pass their next exam; or else they were in for a beating. Now the fear of being beaten on failure will stay on to the exam room and in the child's mind an unnecessary tension will be developed about the consequences of failure. This unhealthy state of thinking in an exam room would very likely lead to failure since the child is not free of tension when solving his paper.

ACCEPTING THE CHILD

And may I quote a police officer talking about run-away children in India. "As soon as any examination results are due to be out, we keep ourselves prepared to do the extra work of finding children who have run away from home. In India, failing in exams seems to be as bad as third degree murder. Parents, relatives, friends, colleagues, all becomes criticizing terrors. This is the saddest malaise that affects the youths and so much swotting and tension is spent on exams and so little importance given to the knowledge gained, that the whole educational system becomes paradoxical.

Always, the exam is the goal, the degree is necessary and the knowledge gained is incidental. Some failures get so unbalanced that they are driven to suicide. Quite often it is just the imagined fright of parental reaction that causes all this.

One often also hears of students cheating in examination rooms or bribing corrupted officials to reveal exam papers in advance... this is because the student wants to pass and as he is sceptical if he can do it by legal means he chooses amore certain method, may it be illegal.

In this respect it is the duty of every parent not to make the child feel unacceptable just because he has failed to reach a high standard of work at school or college. The child needs to know that you accept him completely even if he makes mistakes or cannot be as clever as his school mates or his brother or sister. And when the child is to appear for exams ask him to study hard for them and if inspite of his hard studies he does fail then absolve him of all responsibility. This will enable him to solve his paper with a relieved conscience thereby achieving better results.

The unhappy and insecure child needs your help and understanding. Do not smother him, mother him. Give him comfort, while allowing him his unique individuality. But if you react to his behaviour with impatience or anger, you will make his insecurity more of a torture. He will tend to become more deeply disturbed and unhappy, because he feels that this is further evidence that he is unloved and rejected. When such symptoms of unbecoming manners are noticed its best to take a tactical approach. You can probably tell him that you love him more than anyone in the world and that he is most precious to you. Tell him that you understand and want to help him if anything is troubling him and though it may take time for him to gather courage, with your re-assurances that you still love him, whatever dreadful sin he feels he may have committed, he will find the courage to confide in you.

LOVE AND ATTENTION

When newly-borns arrive into the family the love and attention of the parents often go to the younger one and the elder child who may have been perfectly disciplined would then start misbehaving in order to attract attention from his parents. It is seriously wrong to leave a child dejected and though the stimulus of loving a newly born may be great, love should be divided amongst the children so that they all feel they are needed.

It is also important that children are given time off by parents. Time when parents and their children can be together and when the child can be assured of his parent's full attention. Things like taking one's child out on an open field and challenging him for a race; or even taking him for a swim while at home you could play word games or make him a teacher and be his pupil! Such cooperation not only develops a child's brain but also gives a child the confidence of his parents love which for him means more than new clothes and toys.

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With such patience, perseverance and kindness one can expect symptoms of discipline in one's child. The 'naughty' child of yesterday who was yearning for love will be a lighthearted happy person again and will no longer need to impress you with his badness, because he will find that you love him and have time for him.

As you satisfy your child with genuine love, he will not need to fight for your attention by being adamant on wrong things and will not be hampered with 'nervous troubles'. Your own life will be more peaceful and you will have the great reward of seeing your child growing into a happy and confident person.

AFFLUENT CHILDREN

Children born in affluent homes start with some distinct advantages but tragic disadvantages over other children. The affluent child is rarely prepared adequately for life and being coddled and corseted from infancy to adulthood, he loses opportunities of development offered by more modest homes and finds himself on the threshold of the work-a-day world, ill equipped for its challenges and demands.

The idea is to prepare children to adequately and naturally face the demands of their own later lives, but regretfully in many affluent homes the abundance of money leaves its children rather unprepared in facing life's challenges. If children from such homes had to earn a living for themselves, they would often be failures!

All children need to burden some responsibilities. Misguided (may be overloving) parents employ servants to do everything for their children, as they (wrongly) see no merit in their children performing routine tasks. But routine tasks bestow skill and when children are not given such responsibilities in youth they grow up shirking them.

A child may be against household chores but a little bit of diplomatic talk, can overcome this. Like encouraging him and telling him he is doing something great or publicising his doing to guests or relatives. The other day, a family came home for dinner and they had a girl aged around 12 years who accompanied them. Over dinner, the girl's father related to me the way his daughter washed the dirty plates after dinner and the way she dried them and so on. After dinner the girl was so keen to show her capabilities that in spite of my emphatic refusals, she did the washing and drying of the dirty plates. Indeed children would do anything if only they were encouraged! A certain father had two children who both thought that laying the table was a servant's job. The father realising that force would only worsen matters, thought of a different way. He created a form of competition between his two children saying that from the next day onwards each was to lay the table on every alternate day and that he would see who was doing it better. Each was eager to show that he was better than the other and thus both laid the table eagerly and with great interest. And in three weeks time they could set the table as well as their mother!

Such approaches serve to take out of the children's heart, firm bad habits which they could otherwise never leave.

And finally in connection with wealthy children, such children should be allowed to board buses (not necessarily chauffeur driven cars always), eat at school canteens and make friends at all social levels be it rich or poor. Education is said to teach one to be at home in the world and to be really at home a child, however wealthy needs to take part in such activities so that he may react to the situations awaiting him in adult life with eager effectiveness.

PERSISTANCE IN OBJECTIVES

Children also need to learn to concentrate in life early. Concentration is the ability to keep one's thoughts and attention on one subject until one understands it well. Persistence in endeavours is necessary if one is to succeed in life and could be the difference between your child being a most successful man and an ordinary one.

The child also needs to appreciate the real meaning of integrity. Uprightness of character and innate honesty apply to everything in life, to school work, play on the football field, or to life at home with the family. The child needs to look every one in the eye with the full knowledge that no one can challenge his integrity and this will give him a good character and self-confidence as few other things can. Ask him to always be humble but never to be timid!

Teach him to make all his decisions promptly as procrastination is truly the thief of time. Putting off until tomorrow what can be done today is admitting one's slackness.

The child also needs to be thoughtful and considerate of all, especially his family. Ask him not to take his parents for granted as they have made great sacrifices for him and the least that he can do towards them is to behave in a manner of which they can be proud of him.

RELIGION IS IMPORTANT

Then there is also the aspect of Religion. Emphasis needs to be given to this primary purpose of life and ensure that through an abiding faith in God he performs his obligations towards the Almighty.

Money is said to be the source of all evil in the world. The child has to know that money is important but not to put too much value on it. Advise him that it may buy material things but will not take the place of earning for himself the respect of his friends and fellow-workers. Ask him not to indulge in dishonest means of getting money as this puts his reputation at stake in what is after all a transient world.

The world may be compared to a transit lounge in an airport, where passengers stay for sometime and leave and as they leave new passengers come in. And there is this famous adage: 'If money is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost but if character is lost then everything is lost'. which reveals all.

And finally ask him to always pay heed to his conscience. Nature has endowed us all with a built-in alarm system, so that we know the difference between right and wrong and by following the right track one's self-respect and the knowledge that he is doing the right thing gives satisfaction like nothing else can.

Such psychological approaches are necessary if you want your child to materialise into a worthwhile being. And to conclude some experiences follow which parents effectively tackled.

A young boy was having difficulty in learning some new words and their meanings and was moreover shy about it. The father hung a board into the child's room and on this he pinned magazine pictures illustrating ideas and words hard for his son to grasp. And by changing the pictures once in a while, he kept his son alert and interested in the display. The child thereby overcame his shyness since through enthusiasm he led his relatives and other visitors into the room to show his pictures. As an interest was created into the child's brain, he became keen to learn the words faster and soon had no difficulty in learning new words.

Then there was this boy who had no patience to perfect his bad handwriting. Moreover, he appeared to be less concerned about it. So one evening his father gave him an office pad and a pen and talked to him about business practices and wrote down some short messages that businessmen really use, explaining that it was important to write clearly for others to understand. Since then the boy spent hours pretending he was in business and was always writing messages and as a result his handwriting improved. Under the circumstances it would have been odd if his writing had not improved!

Then there was this eight year old boy, who could not say the alphabets in order. His homework often consisted of words for which he was to find the meaning. He would ask for his mother's help who would look up the words for him. One day, she showed him how the alphabets appeared along the side of the dictionary pages and also promised to buy him a dictionary. The next time the boy brought home a similar assignment he sat down with his dictionary, and with only minimal help from his mother, he completed his work. And soon he began doing his homework all by himself.

ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

And then there was this person who complained of his child's indecent language, in spite of him not having any bad friends to influence him. This person was a great humorist and in parties he always attracted groups of listeners who applauded his stomach shattering jokes which were however filled with cheap prattle. The person talked in this fashion, sometimes in front of his child and the child seeing that, people were getting amused at his father's dirty jokes began following the same trend. The father later corrected himself and though it took a few months, the child soon got back to decent language.

Food for thought

PROSPERITY is the period between the last payment on the old car and the first payment on the new one.

YOU GET BETTER results when you ask for *specific* results. If you ask for a 10% cut in the cost of supplies, you may get it. If you just ask employees to watch out for waste in the use of supplies, nothing is likely to change.

THE Roman philosopher and statesman, Cicero, wrote this some 2,000 years ago . . .

The Six Mistakes of Man

1. The delusion that personal gain is made by crushing others.
2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected.
3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it.
4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences.
5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind, and not acquiring the habit of reading and studying.
6. Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

All parents need to search themselves and check on what they are providing for their children. As a parent you can point out mistakes you have made in your own life and ask your children not to tread on the same mistakes. It is these young people, the children of today who can be tomorrow's nihilists. They need help and you as a parent are their aids.

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